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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Item 20 (b) of the
preliminary list*
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE:
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 18 May 1995 from the Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour, on behalf of our Ministers for Foreign Affairs, to transmit the enclosed letter (see annex) related to the special economic problems of the States directly affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing trade and economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

We have the honour to request that the text of the present letter and the enclosed letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 20 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Slavi PASHOVSKI
Permanent Representative of
Bulgaria to the United Nations

(Signed) Christos ZACHARAKIS
Permanent Representative of
Greece to the United Nations

(Signed) Tudor PANTIRU
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Moldova to the
United Nations

(Signed) Ion GORITA
Permanent Representative of
Romania to the United Nations

(Signed) Anatoli M. ZLENKO
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

* A/50/50.

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ANNEX

Letter from the States directly affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing trade and economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

For over two years now the international community has consistently acknowledged that the comprehensive sanctions regime against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has created special economic problems and has caused great losses to a number of third countries. The issue of special economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing trade and economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) was discussed both at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly.

As a result, two resolutions (48/210 and 49/21 A) were adopted by the General Assembly by consensus. The urgent need to alleviate the special economic problems arising from the strict enforcement of the sanctions was underscored once again in the path-breaking position paper entitled "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace" (A/50/60-S/1995/1).

Regrettably, however, these problems still remain unsolved - at present there is no relevant mechanism for dealing with them.

Mr. Secretary-General,

We would like, therefore, to bring again to your attention the burden that the sanctions impose on our countries. Furthermore, the sanctions are having a considerable and longer-term negative impact on the overall economic and social situation in the affected third countries and, hence, on regional security and stability.

Thus, we are of the opinion that the following initial steps should be undertaken as a matter of priority:

1. Speeding up the procedures of processing the applications, as well as general enhancement of the capabilities of the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 724 (1991): The affected countries express their hope that their numerous submissions to the Sanctions Committee, including applications for transshipment and deliveries of humanitarian goods, shall be treated most expeditiously and on a priority basis by the members of the Committee. Some practical proposals for strictly monitored land and Danube transshipments submitted by our countries are still awaiting the response of the Sanctions Committee.

2. Easing the access of companies from the interested affected countries to orders by United Nations humanitarian organizations for rendering

humanitarian assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

3. Allocation of additional financial resources in order to carry out long-term transport infrastructure projects: For this purpose, a special meeting with the participation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the United Nations funding agencies, the major donor countries and the interested affected States should be convened as soon as possible.

4. Additional measures or special assistance projects in the fields of telecommunications, energy, water supply, environment, and so forth: These could be also considered at a special United Nations inter-agency consultative meeting with the participation of the relevant United Nations agencies and programmes and interested Member States.

5. Enhanced technical assistance and analytical support of the international financial institutions for the objective estimate of losses and their impact on the balance of payments and the national economies of the affected countries: The international financial institutions have extensive expertise and substantial programmes for financial and technical assistance to many of the affected countries. In view of the immediate hardships encountered, and the urgent needs faced by the affected countries, these programmes should be updated to make them responsive to the particular problems of the countries concerned. Therefore, a request by the Secretary-General addressed to the international financial institutions to prepare a special analytical report with assessment of the sanctions impact on the national economies, the balance of payments and other related matters seems highly appropriate. This report should also include practical proposals aimed at assuring access for the affected countries to the IMF compensatory and contingency facilities.

6. Elaboration of a special mechanism to address effectively and systematically the adverse effects of sanctions on non-target States: a useful step in this direction will be the preparation by the Secretariat of the report mandated by paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 49/58 on the practical ways and means of implementing Article 50 of the United Nations Charter. This report could include, inter alia, a review of the recent proposals elaborated by the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, as well as a practical evaluation of the anticipated special report by IMF and the World Bank.

One of the challenges facing the United Nations today is related to the extent to which it would prove able to resolve the special economic problems of the countries affected by the implementation of sanctions imposed by the Security Council. Therefore, we trust that these requests of ours will be considered on an urgent basis and that respective measures will be taken for their implementation.